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CHOOSING BEDSPREADS

When housewives want bedspreads to match window draperies of chintz or other materials, many prefer to make their own. But if time is at a premium, it is desirable to buy ready-mades. As with other purchases made at long intervals, the housewife may be somewhat uncertain of the points to check when she buys. Here are some suggestions from _____ _____:

Generous sizes, substantial edge finishes, and well-made seams are quality features of importance. Spreads for any beds should be from 90 to 108 inches long. The 90-inch length does not allow for covering the pillows. For a double bed, a spread should be from 80 to 90 inches wide to hang over the sides and cover the frame and spring. For a single bed it should be 72 inches wide.

Although bedspreads are not laundered so often and get but little wear compared to sheets, upholstery and rugs, they should be properly cut and finished. The ends should be cut straight, parallel to the crosswise yarns. If a spread seems straight but is cut crooked, it will look and hang badly after laundering and attempts to trim or straighten it will probably make it too short.

If the edge is scalloped the stitching should be sufficiently deep and the stitches close together, covering the raw edges well so they

will not fray. Hems should be completely caught with short stitches close to the edge. Fourteen stitches to the inch is a good average in a well-made spread. Back stitching at the ends of the sewing insures against raveling.

Deep seams will hold without pulling out. Choose spreads with fewest joinings. Chintz spreads are made with two narrow panels on top, the seams bound on the right side with bias tape harmonizing with a predominating color in the fabric. This is because a 30- or 36-inch material is not wide enough for a 39-inch bed, the standard twin size. When buying a spread of this kind examine all the seams closely to see that the stitching is deep enough to hold and that the binding is caught on both edges.

Most ready-made bedspreads fall in a few classes: Crepe, including seersucker and plissé; Marseilles, the old-fashioned "counterpanes" now made in much lighter weights; damask, similar to the durable coverings on mattresses; chintz, taffeta, lace, candlewick tufted, and colonial coverlets which reproduce old designs woven in colonial days on handlooms, usually combining white and a single color. There are different points to look for in buying each of these types but in the main the important features are ample size, close fabrics, and good workmanship.

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